

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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> Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

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To:

February 7, 2011

Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

William T Fujioka

Chief Executive Officer

mt Gt

UPDATE ON SALE OF EXISTING SHERIFF PATROL HELICOPTERS

On June 1, 2010, your Board approved the necessary authorizations for the Sheriff's Department (Department) to replace its existing 12 patrol helicopters with new American Eurocopter Corporation (AEC) model AS350B2 helicopters. As part of this action, the Board authorized the Department to include an option within the AEC contract to acquire up to an additional two new AS350B2's, which would expand the patrol fleet to 14 helicopters. The exercise of the optional purchase of the additional helicopter(s) at a cost of \$4.1 million each was dependent on the ability of the Sheriff to realize revenues to offset the costs from the sale of their existing patrol helicopters.

We indicated we would inform your Board prior to the February 1, 2011 deadline for exercising the purchase option concerning the amount of revenues available to fund the helicopter purchases and whether the purchase option on one or both of the optional aircraft would be exercised. AEC has confirmed, however, that the deadline to exercise would not occur until February 15, 2011.

The final amount of revenues which will be realized by the Department is not yet determined. The Department recently finalized the sale of two helicopters to the City of Long Beach, culminating on February 1 with the approval of the City of Long Beach to purchase the helicopters at a price of \$1.57 million each. In addition to the \$3.14 million realized from the sale of two helicopters, the Department

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anticipates selling the remainder of its other patrol helicopters in the coming months; however, no firm commitments for these sales are in place, which would guarantee the revenues needed to fund the optional aircraft. Since insufficient revenues have been realized to ensure the costs of the optional aircraft would be fully offset, the purchase option with AEC for either of the additional two aircraft will not be exercised. The final amount of replacement patrol helicopters to be procured will remain at 12.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Peter Burgis at (213) 974-1417.

WTF:RLR DJT:PB:zu

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 Auditor-Controller
 Sheriff's Department, Administrative Services Division